

**No. R-429. House concurrent resolution congratulating Elliott Rice on winning the Vermont State competition of the 2018 American Legion Oratorical Contest.**

(H.C.R.355)

Offered by: Representatives Webb of Shelburne, Brumsted of Shelburne, Lippert of Hinesburg, Macaig of Williston, McCullough of Williston, and Yantachka of Charlotte

Whereas, the American Legion Oratorical Contest was established in 1938 in order “to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation of the U.S. Constitution among high school students,” and

Whereas, Elliott Rice, a senior at the Lake Champlain Waldorf High School in Shelburne, embarked with great enthusiasm as a contestant, devoting approximately 50 hours in research and speech delivery preparation, and

Whereas, he had to verse himself on the U.S. Constitution’s Second Amendment (Right to Bear Arms), Third Amendment (Quartering Soldiers), 15th Amendment (Impartial Suffrage), and Article II, § 4 (Impeachment), and

Whereas, the rigorous multiple rounds of competition began on February 3, with the local level round held at American Legion Post #14 in Vergennes, and

Whereas, Elliott Rice presented a nearly-ten-minute personalized speech, as always with no support materials to assist him, entitled, “Our Right to Vote,” plus a second shorter talk focused more broadly on the 15th Amendment, and

Whereas, the judges awarded Elliott Rice first place, and at the district event, held on February 24, he again won, based on Third Amendment speeches, and

Whereas, on March 10, at the department (State) championship, Elliott Rice’s primary oration was again on the Third Amendment, and

Whereas, his erudition, organization, and topical knowledge each contributed to Elliott Rice’s earning the State championship and the opportunity to represent Vermont at the national competition in Indianapolis, and

Whereas, Elliott Rice represented Vermont with pride and advanced to the quarter final round at the national event, and

Whereas, an interesting aspect of Elliott Rice’s participation in the American Oratorical Contest was his concurrent preparation and appearance in his school’s play, Moliere’s *Tartuffe*, in the role of Orgon, one of the drama’s leading characters, and

Whereas, his proud grandparents are Representative Jim McCullough of Williston and his wife, Lucy, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Elliott Rice on winning the Vermont State competition of the 2018 American Legion Oratorical Contest, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Elliott Rice.